

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO TRUDEAU VISIT

RICHARD GWYN, OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT FOR TORONTO STAR,
DISCUSSED TRUDEAU'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN
DECEMBER 7 COLUMN. PERTINENT QUOTES FOLLOW:

"CANADA-US RELATIONS TOOK A TURN THIS WEEK,
VERY POSSIBLY A DECISIVE ONE.

"IT IS USEFUL THAT PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU AND
US PRESIDENT FORD CAME AWAY FROM THEIR MEETING AS
FRIENDS."

"IT IS USEFUL ALSO THAT THE CHECKLIST OF CURRENT
CROSS-BORDER ISSUES WAS COVERED SO QUICKLY, AND SO
EASILY. OFFICIALS WERE TOLD TO SETTLE THE BEEF WAR.
TRUDEAU COMMITTED HIMSELF TO EXTENDING THE NORTH
AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE (NORAD) AGREEMENT ONCE IT EXPIRES
IN MAY; DISCUSSION NOW CENTERS ON AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL
TO PHASE OUT THE DISTANT EARLY WARNING (DEW) LINE AND
REPLACE IT WITH AN ADVANCED 'OVER-THE-HORIZON'
ANTI-MISSILE SYSTEM. FORD EXPRESSED CONCERN
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ABOUT CANADA'S CUT-BACK OF OIL EXPORTS; AS A

COUNTER-OFFER THE CANADIAN GROUP PROPOSED THAT IF
MIDWEST REFINERIES REALLY NEED MORE OIL, THEN THE
US MUST COMMIT ITSELF TO EXPORT EQUIVALENT
QUANTITIES OF OIL TO CANADA AS A REPLACEMENT."

"THE REAL INTEREST OF BOTH LEADERS WAS THE
WORLD, WHETHER HEADED TOWARD WAR OR PEACE, OR
TOWARD DEPRESSION OR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL."

"FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL
COLLAPSE, THE SELF-INTERESTS OF CANADA AND OF THE
US HAVE BECOME CONGRUENT; EQUALLY, OUR CROSS-BORDER
SQUABBLES LIKE WHO-DID-WHAT-TO-WHICH-COUNTRY'S-BEEF,
HAVE BECOME TRIVIAL."

"EVEN IF THE WORLD WERE A LESS ALARMING PLACE,
THE BASIS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE US
HAS CHANGED. TRUDEAU'S MUCH-QUOTED ANALOGY, COINED
DURING HIS 1969 VISIT, OF THE US AS AN 'ELEPHANT' AND
OF CANADA AS A 'MOUSE', IS OUT OF DATE.

"THE ELEPHANT TODAY IS WEAK AT THE KNEES, AND
THE MOUSE HAS GROWN, INTO A BEAVER AT LEAST. THE US
TODAY IS DEEP IN RECESSION; WE HAVEN'T YET SLIPPED
INTO THE PIT. THE IMMIGRATION FLOW, WHICH ONCE
DRAINED OFF SOME OF CANADA'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST,
NOW RUNS NORTHWARDS."

"THE TRUDEAU-FORD MEETING ACHIEVED ONE
PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN MORE-OR-
LESS EQUALS HAVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN COMMON. THE
TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREED TO MAKE A JOINT STUDY OF THE
AUTOMOBILE, NOT IN TERMS OF THE AUTO TRADE PACT BUT
IN TERMS OF FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE AUTOMOBILE IN
AN OIL-SHORT ERA AND OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
CHANGES THIS WILL CAUSE. CANADA AND THE US FACE
EQUALLY A FUTURE IN WHICH THE AUTOMOBILE BECOMES
A LUXURY; IT IS IN BOTH OF OUR INTERESTS TO STUDY
THAT FUTURE JOINTLY."

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